

Uranium deposits have been established by the Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration & Research (AMDE&R), a constituent unit of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), in the States of Bihar, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. Potential areas under active exploration fall also in Karnataka, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) The Commercial exploitation of Uranium Deposits in the country is being done in Bihar since 1965 by the Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), a public sector undertaking of the Department of Atomic Energy. The feasibility of mining the deposits at Domiasiat in Meghalaya is being studied. The exploitation of uranium deposits available in other parts of the country would depend on establishment of technoeconomic viability of mining thereof.

Discouraging Atomic Power due to radiation related disease

† 2055. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to radiation related diseases now atomic power related programmes are being discouraged throughout the world;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it is being encouraged by Government; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Like any other developing country, India is a growing economy. The per capita electricity consumption needs to be

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increased for better quality of life. To cope with this scenario, an optimal mix of energy sources should be exploited. Nuclear power being a clean source of energy, is one of the important sources of energy with potential to grow in future. Indian nuclear power programme is based on the strategy of self reliance and utilisation of the indigenous uranium reserves and the vast thorium reserves which the country is endowed with. Adequate provisions are made in the design to ensure that radio activity releases are well within the prescribed limits set by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). Indian Nuclear Power Plants have completed about 168 reactor years of operation upto the end of June 2000 without any radiological accident as defined by the International Nuclear Event Scale (INES), which has been devised by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Atomic power generation in the country

2056. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the power generation in our country by using Atomic fuel during the last five years, year-wise;

(b) whether in the recent past, objections were raised from some quarter regarding use of atomic power as there is a trend in western countries to abandon the use of atomic power;

(c) whether any study has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The